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County of San Diego

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
HEALTH SERVICES COMPLEX

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Epidemiology & Immunization Services
Emergency & Disaster Medical Services
HIV, STD and Hepatitis
Maternal, Child and Family Health Services
Public Health Laboratory
PH Nursing
Border Health
TB Control & Refugee Health
Vital Records

MISSION STATEMENT

“As advisors to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, the Mission of the Emergency Medical Care Committee is to be an advocate for the community through the development of strategies for continuous improvement of the emergency medical services system.”

EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE (EMCC) MEETING

Minutes

Wednesday, November 9, 2011

Members Present

Adler, Fred – District Three
Dotson, R.N., Melody – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators
Forman, R.N., Kelly – County Paramedic Agencies
Green, R.N., Katy – District One
Jacoby, M.D., Jake – District Four
Meadows-Pitt, R.N., Mary – District Two
Rosenberg, R.N., Linda – Emergency Nurses Association

Vacant Positions

Binational EMCC
District Five
League of California Cities
San Diego County Medical Society
San Diego Emergency Physicians' Society

County Staff

Haynes M.D., Bruce – EMS Medical Director
Metz R.N., Marcy – EMS Chief

Recorder

Wolchko, Janet I.

Members Absent

Fisher, Chief Gary – S.D. Co. Fire Dist. Assoc.
Johnson, Wayne – San Diego County
Ambulance Assoc.
Marugg, Jim – S.D. Co. Paramedic Assoc.
Pfohl, Chief Bob – S.D. Co. Fire Chiefs Assoc.
Ponce, Cruz – American Red Cross
Salazar, Sgt. Stanley – Law Enforcement
Agency
Skoglund, Patty – Hospital Assoc. of SD/Imp.
Co.

In attendance

Broyles, Linda – RCCP/AMR
DeBry, Westen – Loma Linda University
Demers, Gerard – UCSD
Hakam, Sean – Loma Linda University
Quintanilla, Eli – Loma Linda University
Shimmin, Russ – S.D. Sheriff for Sgt. Salazar
Thue, Tim – Loma Linda University
Valadez, Hector – Loma Linda University

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Melody Dotson, R.N. called the meeting to order at 9:10 for Chairperson Jim Marugg.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS

There were no public speakers or petitions.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mary Meadows-Pitt, seconded by Katy Green to approve the September 22, 2011 minutes as submitted. Motion carried.

IV. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee

No report

B. Education and Research Subcommittee

No report.

C. Disaster Operations Subcommittee

November 17, 2011 is the Statewide Medical Health Exercise that will have a contaminated water scenario. The EMS Department Operations Center (DOC) which is the Medical Operations Center (MOC) will be fully activated.

There will be an FCC Emergency Communication Systems testing at 11:00 am this morning, November 9, 2011. The purpose of the test is to assess the reliability and effectiveness of the system in alerting the public.

V. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS K POLICY REVIEW

Board of Supervisor's policies K9 and K12 are due to sunset at the end of the year. The policies are being presented to the EMCC for review.

In 2010, the Board of Supervisors adopted the "Building Better Health" Strategy Agenda which has evolved into "Live Well San Diego." There are three components to the strategy agenda, building better health, safety and economic stability. Part of the "Building Better Health" Strategy is to incorporate "Live Well San Diego" into the policies to link them to the strategic plan.

Policy K9, Emergency Medical Services – Ambulance Services added a "Live Well San Diego" paragraph within the policy and covers emergency medical services in the unincorporated areas of the County.

Policy K12, Emergency Medical Systems Management is the foundation for EMS in the County of San Diego. The policy designated HHSA as the department to oversee EMS. Updates to K12 include word formatting of EMT, Paramedic and MICN; and adds a paragraph on “Live Well San Diego”.

A motion was made by Katy Green, seconded by Kelly Forman to approve the K9 and K12 policies. Motion carried.

VI. EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR REPORT (Bruce Haynes, M.D.)

1. There has been only one isolated influenza case reported in the community. The number of deaths from pneumonia and influenza is low. Cases of respiratory disease and respiratory disease with fever have been sited but are not related to influenza.
2. The FDA sent out an alert on the use of Zofran due to the concern with prolonged QT syndrome and arrhythmias that develop when Zofran is administered. The FDA is requiring the manufacturer to conduct a complete review.
3. The CDC republished the Ryan White Act notification requirements. The renewal will take effect on December 2, 2011. The Ryan White Act requires employees to report when they feel they have been exposed to an infectious disease and to ask the hospital for an evaluation to see if there is a chance they have been exposed. Potentially life threatening diseases include cutaneous anthrax, hepatitis B and C, HIV and rabies. The State also requires patients that have an infectious disease to be evaluated by a hospital and to notify the emergency response employee.

Discussion ensued on workman’s compensation, insurance authorization and EMTALA requirements.

4. Chief Mark Muir of the Encinitas Fire Department is retiring today and will be sworn in as an Encinitas Council Member to replace Maggie Houlihan. Chief Muir will represent North County at the CSA-17 meetings.
5. The State regulations have gone out for comment. The Advanced EMT regulations will be in conformance with the new Federal level of Advanced EMT. Additional hours of training are being added.

Paramedic regulations draft to the state included changes to the scope of practice. A new level of provider called Advanced Practice Paramedic was created. Some of the skills outlined in those regulations include Rapid Sequence Intubation (RSI).

State regulations moving forward are EMS-C (EMS for Children), STEMI and Stroke regulations.

6. There was a recent announcement by the CDC on prescription narcotic pain relievers. Overdoses of persons on prescription narcotic pain relievers such as oxycodone, percoced and vicodin now exceed the number of deaths by heroin and cocaine combined. In 2008, there were 14, 800 deaths reported from opioid pain killers compared to 4, 000 deaths in 1999.
7. Dr. Haynes presented a power point overview on STEMI, Stroke and Trauma Program data reports.

- Stoke Receiving Systems data included 4,935 patient cases that were entered into the hospital systems from Jan-Dec 2010. Fifty-two percent of the patients arrived by EMS, 38 percent by walk-ins and 10 percent by interfacility transfers. Most of the patients were 80 years or older. Gender distribution was equal. A larger number of the interfacility transfers (IFT) had intercerebral hemorrhages or subarachnoid hemorrhages. Those IFT patients were transferred to neurosurgical consultation and care. Of the EMS transported patients, 40 percent arrived in 4 hours or less, 27 percent of that selected group received tPA. Recent studies have shown that if patients receive tPA within 60 minutes there are fewer complicating intercerebral hemorrhages and the death rate is lower.

Gerard Demers has completed a literature review on tPA and stroke. It was noted that after 4 ½ hours, incidents of adverse effects goes up. He will send those impact trial reports to Dr. Haynes.

Dr. Jacoby suggested running statistics on the percentage of patients that received tPA less than 60 minutes and tPA greater than 60 minutes.

Dr. Haynes will check with other counties to see where San Diego data compares.

- Trauma center hospital statistics were provided from data collected by Alan Smith, EMS Epidemiologist. Trauma patient data was by incident and located by zip codes. Ten years ago, the typical major trauma patient was 20 to 40 years old and the majority of those were injured in motor vehicle accidents. Over the last ten years that has changed; falls are the primary cause of designation and the majority of those trauma patients are 45 years and older. Data on trauma patient age and gender, age by mechanism, trauma rate by age and gender, mean and median length of stay (LOS) was given. Data included ME statistics and data from trauma centers.
- STEMI System Activity data was from 2007-2011 (1st quarter). Seventy-six percent of the 4,101 cases arrived by 911, 78 percent were prehospital activations. Among the activations, 73 percent went to the cath lab with 62 percent of the pre-activated cases receiving percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI).

Prehospital 12 lead to device time was reviewed. Ninety-five percent of the activated patients had door-to-device within 90 minutes. Median door-to device time for activated patients was 57 minutes.

VII. EMS STAFF REPORT (Marcy Metz, Chief EMS)

1. The Spare Tire Exemption Board Letter will go before the County Board of Supervisors for approval the first Tuesday in December. The current exemption is due to expire at the end of the year.
2. Ms. Metz updated the committee on EMT 2010 since its adoption on July 1, 2010. The process of certification expanded to include FBI background checks as well as the State Department of Justice background checks. The state registry was implemented.

EMT 2010 required EMS agencies to follow up on FBI background checks, any subsequent arrests, and the discipline process for initial certification and recertification of EMTs. For

the current calendar year there have been 100 investigations of EMTs, 32 probationary offenses such as DUI, domestic violence and possession and 16 temporary suspension orders. There have been five applicant denials and three conducted administrative law judge hearings.

EMS staff is analyzing data from the registry for July 2010 to June 2011 including cost and resource impact on EMS staff.

3. Announcements:

- The Health Service Capacity Taskforce met during October for the annual review of the Capacity Plan in preparation for the flu season. Comments are due by next week to finalize the plan by the end of the month.
- EMS Commission will meet in December and have an update on the regulations for Paramedics, STEMI and Stroke, and EMS for children.
- The Statewide Medical Health Exercise is on November 17, 2011.

VIII. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

1. Dr. Haynes acknowledged Alan Smith, Barbara Stepanski and Diane Royer for the data and presentations they prepared on Trauma, STEMI and Stroke.
2. Upcoming Events:
 - The Carrier Classic is on Friday, November 11, 2011. There are 8,000 ticket holders expected to view the game. Pat Buttron of EMS and the Sheriff Department has been involved with the emergency response plan for the event.
 - The “Tale of our Cities” conference is being held on December 12, 2011. Registration is available on the website.
 - The Asian Pacific Economic Conference (APEC) is being held on November 11-15 in Honolulu, Hawaii. The National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) has strike teams in place and the Office of Intelligence, Security and Counter Terrorism (ISCT) has been set up.
 - America’s Cup Regatta is being held from November 12-20, 2011.

EMCC does not meet in December. The election of officers will be held at the next EMCC meeting scheduled for January 26, 2012, 9:00 am at Emergency Medical Services, 6255 Mission Gorge Road, San Diego, CA 92120

The meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Submitted by

Janet I. Wolchko, Administrative Secretary III
County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services